CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A column unit, comprising:

a fixed upright tube having a bottom upright-tube end and a top upright-tube end;

a telescopic tube axially displaceably guided in said upright tube for moving between a fully inserted position to a maximally withdrawn position;

a pneumatic spring having a cylinder and a piston rod, said cylinder being axially displaceably guided in said telescopic tube, said piston rod having a free end projecting out of said cylinder and fastened to said upright tube proximate said bottom upright-tube end, said cylinder having a carry-along stop for carrying the telescopic tube out of said upright tube when said pneumatic spring is moved axially; and

a securing element arranged on said upright tube for limiting an axial movement of said telescopic tube out of said upright tube, said securing element being urged resiliently radially inward such that said securing element abuts an outer cylindrical lateral surface of said telescopic tube, wherein a latching recess is defined on said outer cylindrical lateral surface of said telescopic tube, said securing element being latchable in said latching recess when said telescopic tube is withdrawn from said upright tube to said maximally withdrawn position to thereby prevent further withdrawal of said telescopic tube from said upright tube.

2. The column unit of claim 1, wherein said latching recess is arranged in an end region of said telescopic tube directed towards said bottom upright-tube end.

3. The column unit of claim 1, wherein a securing recess is arranged in said upright tube, said recess being open toward said telescopic tube, wherein said securing element is arranged in said securing recess.

4. The column unit of claim 1, further comprising a guide bushing firmly inserted in said upright tube, said telescopic tube being axially displaceably guided in said guide bushing.

5. The column unit of claim 4, wherein a securing recess is arranged in said guide bushing of said upright tube, said recess being open toward said telescopic tube, wherein said securing element is arranged in said securing recess.

6. The column unit of claim 3, wherein the radial depth of said securing recess in said upright tube corresponds approximately to a radial extent of said securing element.

7. The column unit of claim 3, wherein said securing recess of said upright tube comprises a securing bead having an annular encircling groove.

8. The column unit of claim 7, wherein said securing bead has an asymmetric cross section.

9. The column unit of claim 8, wherein said securing bead has a radially inner bead base, a first side wall which is closer to the top upright-tube end, and second a side wall which is further away from the top upright-tube end, said first side wall being

inclined in a ramp-like manner in relation to the top upright-tube end and said second side wall extending to the inner cylindrical lateral surface of the guide bushing approximately perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the column unit.

10. The column unit of claim 1, wherein said latching recess of said telescopic tube comprises a latching bead having an annular encircling groove.

11. The column unit of claim 10, wherein said latching bead has an asymmetric cross section.

12. The column unit of claim 11, wherein said latching bead has a radially inner bead base, a first side wall which is closer to the top upright-tube end, and second a side wall which is further away from the top upright-tube end, said first side wall being inclined in a ramp-like manner in relation to the top upright-tube end and said second side wall extending to the inner cylindrical lateral surface of the guide bushing approximately perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the column unit.

13. The column unit of claim 3, wherein at least one of said latching recess and said securing recess is produced by deformation or machining.

14. The column unit of claim 1, wherein said latching recess is arranged as a separate component on said telescopic tube.

15. The column unit claim 3, wherein said securing element is arranged with radially inwardly directed prestressing in said securing recess of said upright tube.

16. The column unit claim 1, wherein said securing element is made of an elastic material.

17. The column unit of claim 16, wherein said securing element is made of metal.

18. The column unit of claim 1, wherein said securing element comprises a spring element having radially inwardly directed tongues.

19. The column unit of claim 1, wherein said securing element is a spring ring.

20. The column unit of claim 9, wherein said latching recess of said telescopic tube comprises a latching bead having an annular encircling groove, wherein said latching bead has a radially inner bead base, a first side wall which is closer to the top upright-tube end, and second a side wall which is further away from the top upright-tube end, said first side wall being inclined in a ramp-like manner in relation to the top upright-tube end and said second side wall extending to the inner cylindrical lateral surface of the guide bushing approximately perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the column unit.